

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A system for changing a communication means used for communication between two software agents, the system comprising:

a communication server, and

each of said software agents comprises:

a communication module giving access to said communication means; and

means for receiving a new communication module from said communication server,

wherein each of said software agents comprises at least a piece of an object code of a distributed computing,

~~that is at least partially independent and~~ wherein said software agents use the communication means to communicate with each other, and

wherein, when a software agent from said software agents receives the new communication module, the software agent communicates using the new communication module via a new communication means with another software agent from said software agents, thereby changing the communication means between the two software agents.

2. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, in which said software agents further comprise means for sending a request to said communication server to cause said new communication module to be transmitted.

3. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, in which said communication server comprises means for receiving requests for loading communication means from a man machine interface, causing said new communication module to be transmitted.

4. (previously presented): A system according to claim 1, in which said communication server further comprises means for responding to internal rules to decide that said new communication module should be transmitted.

5. (original): A system according to claim 1, in which said communication module is loaded dynamically by said software agents.

6. (original): A system according to claim 1, in which said software agents and said communication modules communicate via a common programming interface.

7. (currently amended): A method of correcting a breakdown in a communication means used between two software agents, the method comprising:

said software agents sending messages to a communication server informing ~~it~~ the server
of said breakdown;

said server sending communication modules to said software agents, said communication
modules being designed to give access to a different communication means; and

said software agents using said communication modules to continue communicating with
each other,

wherein each of said software agents comprises at least a piece of an object code of a
distributed computing ~~that is at least partially independent~~.

8. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said different
communication means is a different type of communication means.

9. (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein said different type
of communication means is a broadcast type of communication means.

10. (previously presented): The method according to claim 8, wherein said different type
of communication means is a point to point type of communication means.

11. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein said software
agents are software program objects in a distributed computing, each of said agents further
comprises a common programming interface, and wherein said communication module translates

between the common interface and another programming interface specific to said different communication means.

12. (previously presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein each of said software agents use said new communication module to access new communication means to communicate with each other.

13. (previously presented): The system according to claim 1, wherein each of said software agents further comprises means for switching from the communication module to the new communication module, and wherein the new communication module provides access to a different communication means, and wherein each of said software agents communicate with each other via the different communication means.

14. (previously presented): The method according to claim 7, wherein the software agents communicate directly with each other and are at a location remote from the communication server, and wherein the server is contacted to obtain the new communication module for direct communication between the software agents.

15. (new): The system according to claim 1, wherein each of said software agents comprise said at least a piece of an object code of the distributed computing that is at least partially independent.

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16. (new): The method according to claim 1, wherein the software agents comprise said at least a piece of an object code of the distributed computing that is at least partially independent.